COMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

SECRET

EXCISE

MMNV7CZCM.IA988SPA385.JIA105
RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 423 1871330
ZNY SSSSS
R 061313Z JUL 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T SAIGON 423

004241

1967 JUL 6 AM 10 54

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A) SAIGON 59; B) SAIGON 29076

1. MORNING JULY 6 [redacted] TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE BELIEVES THE THIEU-KY COMINATION TICKET WILL BE WEAKER THAN THE PREVIOUS KY TICKET. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS REGIME AND WANT A CHANGE. THEY ARE TIRED OF MILITARY

b-1 ed

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RULE, CORRUPTION, AND THE FAILURE TO DEVELOP THE NATION'S ECONOMIC RESOURCES IN AN ORDERLY WAY. THEY WILL VIEW THE THIEU-KY TICKET AS "MORE OF THE SAME" AND VOTE ACCORDINGLY. (SOME OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR THOUGHTS TO US IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. IN PARTICULAR [redacted]; SOME OF THE MRS DEPUTIES, AND JUSTICE MINISTER TIET HAVE SAID THEY THINK THE COMBINED SLATE IS LESS APPEALING TO THE VOTERS THAN THE KY-LOC TICKET.)

2. ASKED IF THIS IS ALSO TRAN VAN HUONG'S VIEW [redacted] HAD JUST SEEN HIM IN VUNG TAU, [redacted] HASISTATED AND THEN NODDED. HE SAID THAT HUONG HAD CONSIDERED WITHDRAWING FROM THE RACE BUT HAS NOW DECIDED THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO RUN PROVIDED KY DOES NOT AGAIN USE THE UNFAIR TACTICS HE WAS EMPLOYING TWOOR THREE WEEKS AGO. [redacted] NOTED THAT BEFORZVTHE THIEU-KY MERGER, HUONG AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAD COUNTED ON THIEU TO "LIMIT" THE UNFAIR PRESSURES APPLIED BY KY. NOW THEY ARE NOT RPT NOT SURE THAT THESE PRESSURES WILL NOT BE APPLIED WITHOUT SUCH "LIMITS". HE MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR ALLEGED PAST ORDERS TO PROVINCE AND INFORMATION CHIEFS TO WORKK FOR THE KY TICKET.

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Sara Steinberg DATE 10/7/81
CONTAINS ~~CLASSIFIED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

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IF SUCH TACTICS ARE AGAIN EMPLOYED , HUONG MIGHT DECIDE TO PULL OUT.

3. [redacted] b-1 ed

[redacted] HE CAUTIONED EMBOFF REPEATEDLY ABOUT THE SINSITIVITY OF THE INFORMATION, THEN CLAIMED THAT HUONG AND HIS COLLABORATORS WERE AWARE WELL IN ADVANCE OF BIG MIN'S INTENTION TO FILE HIS CANDIDACY. (IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, TWO MEMBERS OF THE MRS PARTY WHICH SUPPORTS HUONG TOLD EMBOFF THAT THEY HELPED TO PREPARE MINH'S DOSSIER.) ACCORDING TO [redacted], MINH'S ATTEMPT TO RUN IS A "TEST" OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE AUTHORITIES AND THEIR DEVOTION TO THE CONSTITUTION. MINH'S REAL INTENTION IS TO SUPPORT HUONG , AND AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, HE WILL ANNOUNCE HIS BACKING FOR HUONG, EITHER FROM BANGKOK OR SAIGON. AT ONE POINT [redacted] ASKED REACTION OF EMBASSY IF MINH CAME TO SAIGON AND MADE A STATEMENT SUPPORTING HUONG. EMBOFF ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT MINH WOULD DEFY THE GOVERNMENT AND SLIP INTO THE COUNTRY SECRETLY. [redacted] SAID NO, THAT MINH WILL ONLY RETURN "OFFICIALLY".

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4. ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT SOME MIEZ SUPPORTERS MAY DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT DECISION TO BAR HIS RETURN, [redacted] CLAIMED THAT HE AND HUONG HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MINH ON THIS MATTER. ACCORDING TO [redacted] THEY ADVISED MINH TO ORDER HIS SUPPORTERS NOT TO DEMONSTRATE AND TO DENOUNCE ANY DEMONSTRATIONS UNDERTAKEN ON HIS BEHALF. THEY WARNED MINH THAT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD BE AN ATTEMPT BY THE TRI QUANG EXTREMISTS TO USE HIM, AND THE ONLY PROFIT WOULD BE FOR THOSE WHO WENT TO DESRUPT THE ELECTIONS.

5. [redacted] ALSO CLAIMED THAT HUONG AND SUU HAVE AN AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE" ON THE CONDUCT OF THE CAMPAIGN AND THE FORMATION OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT. SUU AND HUONG WILL NOT CRITICIZE ONE ANOTHER IN ANY WAY DURING THE CAMPAIGN. IF EITHER WINS, THEY WILL COOPERATE IN SETTING UP THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THIEU THEN NOTED THAT HE IS NOT SURE WHETHER GENERAL THIEU'S PREVIOUS PROMISES TO HUONG AND HIS SUPPORTERS ARE STILL GOOD. [redacted] SAID THAT THIEU AND HUONG HAD AGREED TO "WORK TOGETHER" (CONG TAC CHUNG) IN THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT IF ONE OR THE OTHER WERE TO WIN. PERHAPS NOW THIEU WILL NOT KEEP THIS PROMISE.

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6. SAID THAT IF HUONG COMES TO SAIGON TO ATTEND THE AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF THE UNDER SECRETARY, HE EXPECTS THAT HUONG WILL STAY IN SAIGON AND NOT RPT NOT RETURN TO VUNG TAU. 6-1 ed

7. COMMENT: A) IT IS PROBABLE THAT HUONG AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MINH , AND THEY MAY ALSO HAVE ASSISTED HIM IN VARIOUS WAYS WITH THE THOUGHT THAT HIS CANDIDACY WOULD HELP HUONG MORE THAN THE MILITARY. WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT MINH HAS FULLY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO SUPPORT HUONG, BUT IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT THIS POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH HUONG'S REPRESENTATIVES.
B) IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT SUU AND HUONG HAVE TRIED TO FIND SOME AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND THEY MAY HAVE SOME BROAD AGREEMENTS.
C) WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT HUONG AND OTHER CANDIDATES ARE APPARENTLY THINKING ABOUT POST-ELECTION COOPERATION. WEWILL CONTINUE TO ADVANCE THIS IDEA IN APPROPRIATE CONVERSATIONS.

PAGE 6. D) IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE WHETHER THE THIEU-KY TICKET IS INDEED WEAKER THAN THE KY-LOC SLATE. CERTAINLY THE CIVILIAN CANDIDATES OPE THAT IT IS AND THEY WILL TRY TO PRESENT IT IN THAT LIGHT. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT SOME OF KY'S SUPPORTERS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE THIEU-KY SLATE, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THEY MAY DEFECT TO HUONG OR SUU.

BUNKER
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